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### **Abstract**

2       The present invention replaces liquid crystal light control elements in fiber-optic faceplate liquid  
3       crystal displays (LCD) with suspended particle devices (SPDs), and provides for passive light control  
4       without the need for either polarized light or special alignment layers. A fluid or film containing  
5       suspended particles may be asymmetric in shape so that their optical density depends strongly upon  
6       their orientation. The orientation of the particles within the fluid can be manipulated by an application  
7       of an electric field, so that the fluid or film may appear to be transparent to both polarizations of light  
8       when the electric field is applied, and opaque when the electric field is removed and the orientation of  
9       the particles is allowed to randomize naturally.

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